

Claims

I claim:

- 5 1. A method of providing ethnic meals prepared in a client's home by a native-trained chef, comprising the steps of:
 - compiling information on a client including the client's dietary requirements;
 - compiling a database of information on a plurality of native-trained chefs including the ethnic ancestry of each chef, wherein each of the native-trained chefs has been informally trained to cook;
 - providing a central communication agency which links the information compiled on the client with the database of information on the plurality of native-trained chefs;
 - initiating contact from the client to the central communication agency wherein the client orders an ethnic dish to be prepared for the client at a location chosen by the client;
 - scanning the database to choose a native-trained chef suited to prepare the ethnic dish for said client wherein the ethnic ancestry of said chosen native-trained chef matches an ethnicity of said ethnic dish; and
 - initiating contact from the central communication agency to said chosen native-trained chef to schedule said chosen native-trained chef to prepare the ethnic dish for said client.
- 25 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of initiating contact from said client to the central communication agency is conducted by a method chosen from the group consisting of a calling on a telephone, accessing via a computer, contacting in-person, and preparing a letter.
- 30 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of compiling information on a client further comprises gathering information from the group consisting of the client's name, the date of the information compilation, the number of adults in the client's family, the number of children in the client's family, the

desired meal start time, the address of the client, the major cross street nearest to the client's home, the telephone number of the client, the preferred entry method into the client's home, instructions for dealing with pets that may be present, special utensils owned by the client, special spices owned by the client, the presence of a double range at the client's location, the presence of a gas stove at the client's location, the presence of a dishwasher at the client's location, the presence of a freezer at the client's location, the presence of a refrigerator at the client's location, food allergies of the client, food dislikes of the client, religious food restrictions of the client, whether the client is a vegetarian or a vegan, whether the client prefers food mild or spicy, whether the client likes the meal to include desserts, whether the client prefers large or small portions, whether the client prefers that leftovers be available, whether the client prefers low-fat or standard preparation of the food, payment preferences of the client, and a credit card authorization signature.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of compiling a database of information on a plurality of native-trained chefs further comprises gathering information on each chef, the information chosen from the group consisting of the chef's name, the type of cuisine the chef cooks, the date of the information compilation, the result of a criminal background check on the chef, the date of birth of the chef, the country of birth of the chef, how the chef was trained, whether the chef is an English speaker, the address of the chef, the chef's telephone number, the distance the chef is willing to travel to a client, whether the chef has a car, special utensils owned by the chef, special spices owned by the chef, the number of recipes in the chef's portfolio, pictures of dishes prepared by the chef, whether the chef provides samples to prospective customers, payroll information, and tax information.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of initiating contact from said chosen native-trained chef to said central communication agency wherein said chef accesses the information compiled on said client.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of said chosen native-trained chef traveling to the location chosen by said client and said chef

preparing the ethnic dish ordered by said client, wherein said ethnic dish is prepared in accordance with the information compiled on said client.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of initiating contact from said chosen native-trained chef to said central communication agency is conducted by a method chosen from the group consisting of a calling on a telephone, accessing via a computer, contacting in-person, and preparing a letter.

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8. A chef agency communication system comprising:

a client database including client information on a plurality of clients, wherein said client information includes the dietary preferences of each client;

10 a chef database including chef information on a plurality of native-trained chefs, wherein said chef information includes the type of ethnic cuisine prepared by each chef; and

15 a communication apparatus which is adapted to allow a client to access said chef database, and which is adapted to allow a chef to access said client database.

20 9. The communication system of claim 8 wherein said communication apparatus includes scheduling software accessible by a client, wherein said software is connected to said chef database, said software facilitates said client in scheduling the preparation of an ethnic meal, and at a request by said client said software schedules one of said plurality of said native-trained chefs to prepare said ethnic meal for said client.

10. The communication system of claim 8 wherein said communication apparatus includes a web site and wherein said client database and said chef database are accessible on said web site.

25 11. The communication system of claim 8 wherein said communication apparatus includes a warehouse inventory database including information related to an inventory of a culinary storage location.

12. The communication system of claim 8 wherein said communication apparatus includes a client computer, a chef computer, and a central computer which stores said client database and said chef database, and wherein said

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client computer and said chef computer communicate with each other via said central computer.

13. The communication system of claim 8 wherein said communication apparatus includes a telephone and a central computer which stores said client database and said chef database.

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14. A method of scheduling a home-cooked ethnic meal through an agency, comprising the steps of:

a customer contacting a culinary agency and ordering a home-cooked ethnic meal;

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said culinary agency searching a chef database to schedule a native-trained chef to prepare said home-cooked ethnic meal for said customer;

said culinary agency contacting said native-trained chef to inform said native-trained chef of said schedule;

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said native-trained chef receiving from said culinary agency information regarding said customer's dietary requirements; and

said native-trained chef preparing a home-cooked ethnic meal for said customer at said customer's location, wherein said home-cooked ethnic meal is prepared by said native-trained chef in accordance with said customer's dietary requirements.

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15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of said native-trained chef purchasing supplies for the preparation of said home-cooked ethnic meal, wherein said supplies are purchased in accordance with said customer's dietary requirements.

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16. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of said native-trained chef cleaning up said client's location after preparation of said home-cooked ethnic meal.

17. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of said native-trained chef reserving the use of supplies owned by said culinary agency.

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18. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of compiling said client database including client information on a plurality of clients, wherein said client information includes the dietary preferences of each client.

19. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of compiling said chef database including chef information on a plurality of native-trained chefs, wherein said chef information includes a type of ethnic cuisine prepared by each chef.
- 5 20. The method of claim 14 further comprising receiving payment from the client to said agency, and forwarding at least a portion of said payment from said agency to said chef.